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imagery analysis report

AS-EL-01 Soviet Mobile Satellite Communications Vehicle (S)

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AS-EL-01 SOVIET MOBILE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS VEHICLE (S)

1. (S/D) A new Soviet mobile satellite communications vehicle, the AS-EL-01 (Figures 1—3), has been identified with army/corps signal regiments in the USSR, [] and Mongolia; at a Soviet ICBM satellite communications facility; and with independent maneuver regiments in Afghanistan (Table 1). Its presence with independent regiments may indicate eventual deployment to Soviet ground forces divisions, which would significantly reduce the time required to disseminate both routine and high-priority messages to a large number of maneuver units. This would permit a greater degree of direct control of these units from front-, theater-, or Moscow headquarters-level.

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2. (S/D) This mobile satellite communications vehicle was first identified in April 1981 at Ashkhabad Army Barracks AL-2/Headquarters Artillery Division and designated the AS-EL-01. Prototype development and production probably took place at Krasnoyarsk Radio Plant. Prototypes for this system have been observed at Krasnoyarsk since April 1979. The AS-EL-01 is probably produced at Sverdlovsk Radio Plant Hydrometeorological Service, where it was first observed in June 1979.

3. (S/D) The antenna of the AS-EL-01 (Figure 1), which is smaller than the PARK DRIVE satellite communications antenna, has a diameter of approximately []. It is a solid dish antenna which is mounted on the forward section of the stepped, chamfer-edged roof of the van body of a Ural-4320 (modified Ural-375) truck. The antenna can probably be rotated 360 degrees and elevated from 0 to 90 degrees. An electronics box is mounted on the top part of the back of the antenna. The antenna is fed by a waveguide that probably passes through the antenna from the electronics box. An air filtration system is mounted on the rear of the van body. Two generators are stowed in forward compartments on both sides of the van body. In the deployed mode (top, Figure 2), one or both generators may be placed beside the vehicle. Two pairs of metal rods which slope from the top of the vehicle to the ground are used when loading and unloading the generators. The metal rods are retracted and mounted on the roof of the van body when in transit. The vehicle may also be cable connected to an external power source. Stabilization jacks are located at all four corners of the vehicle.

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4. (S/D) In the travel mode (bottom, Figure 2), the antenna is canvas covered and partially retracted into the van body. Full retraction of this antenna is precluded by the position of the generators when they are stowed. A possible variation of the travel mode (Figure 3) involves covering the partially retracted antenna with a material which appears to be similar in tone to the overall vehicle. This variation has only been observed at the Sverdlovsk Radio Plant.

SECRET**Table 1.****AS-EL-01 Mobile Satellite Communications Vehicle Observations***This table in its entirety is classified SECRET/WNINTEL*

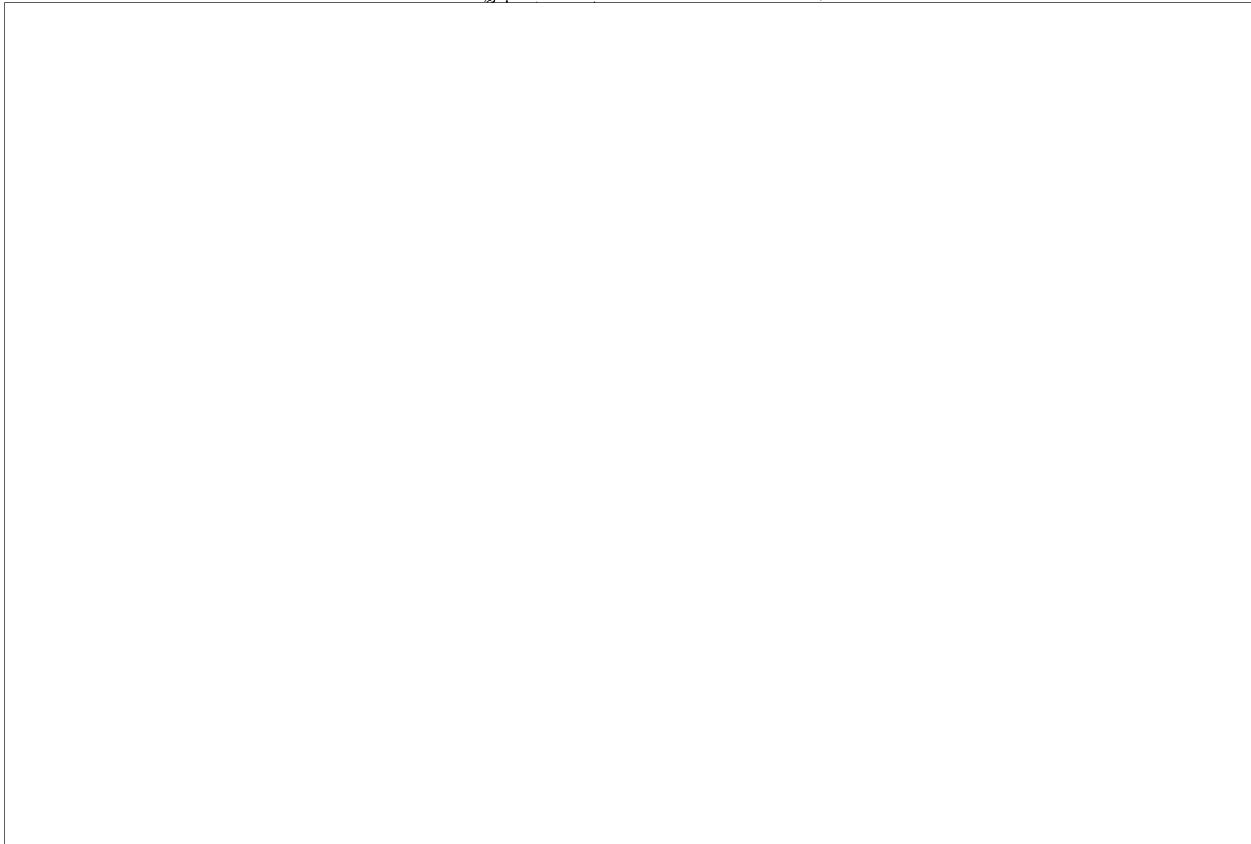
Location/BE No	ID Date	First Observed	Comments	
USSR				25X1
Ashkhabad Army Bks AL-2/ Hq Arty Div [redacted]			Corps-level signal regt	25X1
Borzya Army Hq AL-1 [redacted]			Army-level signal regt	25X1
Gladkaya ICBM Hq Comsat Station [redacted]			SRF ICBM div	25X1
Krasnoyarsk Radio Plant [redacted]			Development plant	25X1
Sverdlovsk Radio Plant Hydrometeorological Service [redacted]			Production plant	25X1
Ulan Ude 9th RVGK Signal Bde AL-3 [redacted]			Signal bde	25X1
[redacted]				25X1
Afghanistan				
Faizabad Airfield [redacted]			Unid unit	25X1
Jalalabad Army Camp Soviet Bivouac 3 [redacted]			Unid unit	25X1
Kunduz (Qonduz) Airfield [redacted]			Unid unit	25X1
Ghazni Soviet Military Camp Southeast [redacted]			Unid unit	25X1
Shindand Deployment Area [redacted]			MRD	25X1
Mongolia				
Ulaanbaatar Army Barracks AL-1 [redacted]			Army-level signal regt	25X1

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(S/D) All relevant satellite imagery acquired from April 1979 through March 1982 was used in the preparation of this report.

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted]
[redacted] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]
green extension [redacted]

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